

CHEPS

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS
& POLICY STUDIES



INSIDE:

New Frontiers in Public Policy Research

**Economics of Risky Behaviors,
Health Policy, and Labor Markets**



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UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Letters

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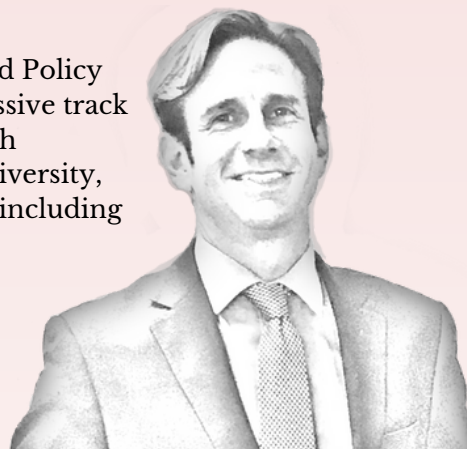
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

We've come a long way, baby! The Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS) is celebrating its second anniversary with an impressive track record of scholarly excellence. With our partners at the Charles Koch Foundation, the Troesh Family Foundation, and San Diego State University, we have raised substantial resources to support our research efforts, including research from the next generation of applied microeconomists.

Here is the CHEPS Tale of the Tape so far:

- 19 undergraduate and graduate students have received funding for research-related activities, including 17 CHEPS Student Research Fellowships;
- 7 Faculty Research Fellowships have been awarded to support applied microeconomics research projects via course releases and summer support;
- 48 Research Seminars have been hosted by CHEPS, with researchers visiting from institutions such as the University of Virginia, The Ohio State University, the University of Georgia, Texas A&M University, the University of Oregon, the United States Military Academy (West Point), American University, the University of New Mexico, Cornell University, and the University of Southern California;
- 16 peer-reviewed publications have been achieved at high-quality economics and policy journals, such as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *American Journal of Health Economics*, *Industrial Relations*, *Health Economics*, and the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*;
- 5 former MA Economics students have been accepted to PhD programs at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the University of Oregon, Fordham University, the University of California, Davis, and Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium);
- 26 academic research conferences and workshops at which CHEPS Affiliates have presented their cutting edge scholarship.



In addition, two of our former students — Brittany Bass and Timothy Young — have completed their PhDs at the University of California, Irvine and will be entering the labor market. Brittany will be starting her academic career as an Assistant Professor of Economics at Sacramento State University and Tim will be an Associate at Analysis Group. We could not be more proud of their achievements.

This is a very exciting time for applied microeconomic research in CHEPS. I hope you will enjoy reading about our research projects, fabulous students, and inspiring faculty in our second issue of *CHEPS Magazine*. I also hope you will consider making a donation to CHEPS.

Share in our pride of building a new generation of scholars!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Joseph J. Sabia". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joseph J. Sabia

Director of the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) and Professor of Economics



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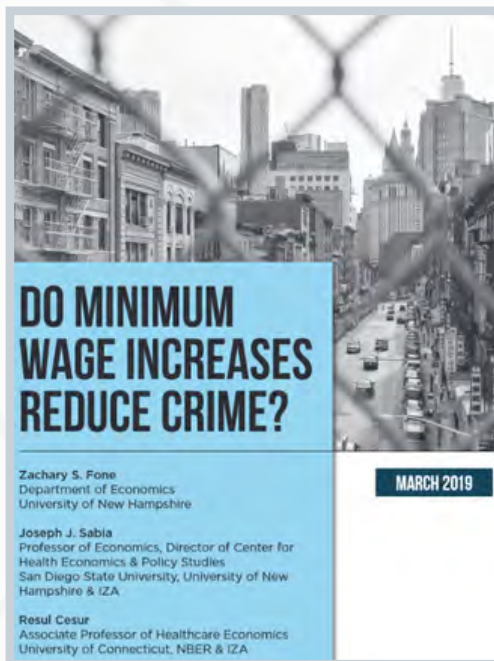
RESEARCH PROJECTS

MINIMUM WAGES AND CRIME

Could raising the minimum wage make neighborhoods less safe? A new study authored by CHEPS affiliates and released by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) suggests that the answer is yes. Funded by the Employment Policies Institute, this research was motivated by a report on criminal justice reform issued by the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) during the Obama Administration. The April 2016 CEA report compared the taxpayer costs of reducing crime through increased policing and more prisons with alternative policies. Then, the CEA report concluded that raising the minimum wage would be an effective anti-crime policy.

How could this happen? The CEA argued that by raising the hourly wages of low-skilled workers, the opportunity cost of engaging in criminal activity would rise, resulting in more legitimate work and less crime. They concluded that by raising the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$12 per hour, 250,000 to 510,000 crimes would be avoided annually, saving taxpayers \$8 to \$17 billion in crime costs per year.

To reach their conclusion, the CEA assumed that there were no unintended consequences of raising the minimum wage; for instance, by reducing employment. But such an assumption is highly controversial. Many studies find that when the minimum wage rises, employers respond by hiring fewer low-skilled workers or cutting retained workers' hours. If layoffs occurred, then lost income or increased idleness could *increase* crime, particularly property crime.



A new study produced by CHEPS affiliates comprehensively examines nationally representative data from over two decades to examine how past minimum wages have affected criminal behavior. This study uses data from the Uniform Crime Reports and the National Longitudinal Study of Youth 1997 (NLSY97).

Analyses of these data provide no evidence that state or Federal minimum wage increases enacted between 1998 and 2016 reduced criminal arrests. Instead, the study concludes that minimum wage increases resulted in an *increase* in property crime arrests among teenagers and young adults ages 16 to 24. How big are the effects? For each 10 percent increase in the minimum wage, there was a 2 percent *increase* in property crime. In addition, the study finds some evidence that minimum wage hikes increase delinquency-related crimes that are typically related to youth idleness.

The study then goes on to document why it is that raising the minimum wage had the unfortunate consequence of making neighborhoods less safe. They show that raising the minimum wage reduced employment and hours of work among young, less educated individuals

What does this mean going forward? The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582) would raise the Federal minimum wage by 107 percent to \$15 per hour. The estimates obtained in this new study suggest that a \$15 Federal minimum wage would generate over 410,000 additional property crimes and \$2.4 billion per year in additional crime costs.

This research was coauthored by Zach Fone (University of New Hampshire), Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director), and Resul Cesur (University of Connecticut, NBER & IZA).

DO HIGHER MINIMUM WAGES HELP OR HURT LOW-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS?



Over 42 million immigrants live in the United States, with approximately one million new immigrants arriving each year. By 2023, one out of every seven U.S. residents is projected to be foreign-born, a number that is expected to increase to one out of every five by 2060. While there has been an absolute reduction in the number of unauthorized persons in the U.S. in recent years, estimates place the size of this population from 11 to 20 million.

The median income of full-time employed, foreign-born workers is 20 percent less than that of their native-born counterparts, a differential driven by Hispanics, who account for nearly half (49 percent) of all foreign-born workers. The concentration of immigrants in low-wage jobs is particularly acute among likely unauthorized migrants, whose representation in lower-skill sectors such as service and construction jobs is significantly larger than that of natives or authorized immigrants.

The late 2010s have ushered in a fierce public debate about the future of US immigration policy. As part of that debate, some have called for minimum wage increases as a means of improving the economic well-being of low-skilled immigrants. Others have argued that high minimum wages hinder the economic advancement and cultural integration of low-skilled immigrants.

Using Census data from over two decades, a new study from Brandyn Churchill (PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University) and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director), forthcoming in *Industrial Relations*, examines the effect of minimum wage increases on immigrants' economic well-being. They document three key findings. First, they find consistent evidence of a significant negative relationship between minimum wage increases and employment of low-skilled immigrants. These effects emerge after controlling for state immigration policies and persist after controlling for mobility of low-skilled immigrants and natives. They find that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage is associated with a 1 percent decline in employment of low-skilled immigrants, with the largest estimated impact for low-skilled immigrants of Mexican origin.

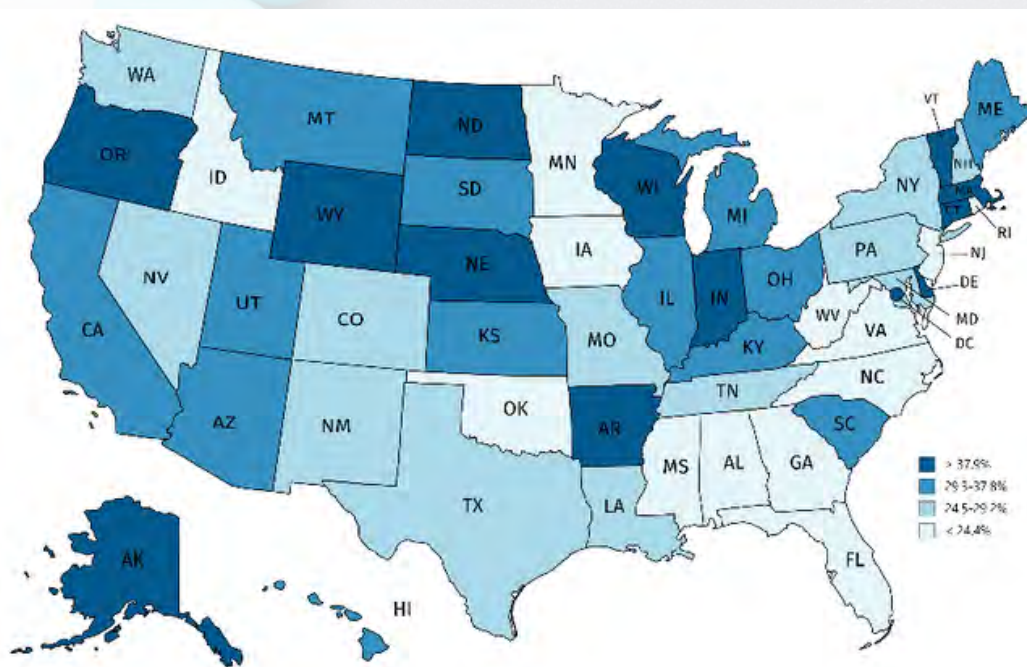
Second, they uncover evidence that minimum wage-induced negative employment effects have lessened in the last decade, explained by the enactment of more restrictive immigration policies such as E-Verify, as well as the Great Recession. These conditions induce outmigration of lower-skilled immigrants and shift some to the informal sector where the minimum wage is less likely to bind.

Finally, their results provide little support for the claim that minimum wage increases reduce net poverty among low-skilled immigrants. This is because higher minimum wages redistribute income, creating winners and losers. Churchill and Sabia conclude that raising the minimum wage will be an ineffective policy tool to help low-skilled immigrants.

DRUG TESTING FOR MEANS-TESTED CASH ASSISTANCE, WELFARE TAKE-UP AND DRUG USE

Policymakers have expressed growing concern about illicit drug use among means-tested program recipients. Estimates from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health show that drug use is 58 percent more common in families that receive public assistance than in those who do not receive such assistance. In response, policymakers concerned that cash assistance could be used to fuel drug habits have begun to enact laws requiring drug testing for recipients. This policy, while quite controversial constitutionally, enjoys some public support.

As of 2017, 15 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin) have adopted mandatory drug testing for public program applicants and recipients (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2017). Advocates of these laws contend that the use of drug testing may help deter drug use, identify problematic users and refer them for



Prevalence of Illicit Drug Use in the Previous Year Among Families with Public Assistance Recipients

Data: National Survey on Drug Use and Health: 2016-2017

treatments, prevent benefit payments being spent on illicit drugs, and potentially reduce government spending. Nonetheless, opponents of drug testing are concerned that the program may not be effective at detecting drug dependence due to 'false positives' among recreational drug users.

This study exploits the rollout of state drug testing laws for cash assistance programs to explore the effects of these laws on welfare take-up and illicit drug use among public assistance recipients between 2002 and 2016. This study begins by drawing data from the Current Population Survey on welfare use and from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health on illicit drug use. Then, the study supplements these datasets with measures of drug treatment admissions data from the Treatment Episode Data Set: Admissions, an administrative dataset that contains detailed information on treatment admissions into both public and private facilities that receive public funding across the country. This research aims to bring some of the first empirical evidence to bear on the effectiveness of state drug testing laws in deterring drug use among its targeted population, one of the major goals that the policy aims to achieve.

The authors of this study include Thanh Tam Nguyen (University of New Hampshire), Resul Cesur (University of Connecticut), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director).

ANTI-BULLYING LAWS AND YOUTH SUICIDES

Bullying is defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as “unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance, and the behavior is repeated or has the potential to be repeated.” Bullying can be written, verbal, or physical. It may also cross criminal thresholds and may be temporary or permanent in nature. In the 2015-16 school year, 21 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported being bullied at school during the school year. The most common forms of school-age bullying include name-calling, public insults, being pushed, and being subject to scurrilous rumors, including online.

There is evidence that school-age bullying victimization is negatively related to students’ psychological health and human capital acquisition, prompting a number of public campaigns to raise awareness of, de-normalize, and stop bullying. Each U.S. state and the District of Columbia have enacted anti-bullying laws (ABLs). Typically, these laws require school districts to develop policies that define bullying, train teachers, staff, and parents to detect it, encourage students to report victimization, and punish offenders. Some anti-bullying policies require school districts to report detailed documentation of each bullying report and its resolution to the state Department of Education. Despite their universal adoption, relatively little is known about the relationship between ABLs and suicide among youths.

There are a number of channels through which ABLs could affect teen suicides. If ABLs result in a decline in bullying victimization, this may reduce stress and unhealthy coping mechanisms, which improve the psychological well-being of students. Additionally, these laws may encourage bullying victims to come forward and share their problems with teachers, parents, or friends, which may improve mental health and reduce the risk of suicide. ABLs may also lead to improvements in the schooling environment via increased comradery and less exclusion. Furthermore, particular provisions of ABLs may directly affect youth mental well-being by encouraging training for faculty, staff, and parents to better monitor students for signs of bullying. This increased monitoring may have spillover effects that allow for the detection of students’ psychological problems.



Using death certificate data from National Vital Statistics (NVS) from 1993 through 2017 and individual-level data from the National and State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), authors Gokhan Kumpas (University of New Hampshire), Daniel Rees (University of Colorado Denver), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director) provide a comprehensive analysis of the effects of ABLs on teen bullying victimization and completed suicides.

They highlight three key findings. First, they document that the enactment of a state ABL is associated with a reduction in bullying among high school students. This effect is larger for adolescent females. Second, they find that the enactment of an ABL is associated with a reduction in the completed suicide rate of teenage females. Finally, they find that the effects are largely driven by stricter ABLs and are concentrated among those most at risk of suicide, including female sexual minorities.


DO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LAWS REALLY IMPROVE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH?

The growth in public acceptance of same-sex couples and support for same-sex marriage represents one of the most dramatic social changes in recent American history. Gallup polls show that 67 percent of Americans now support same sex marriage (SSM), as compared to 35 percent in 1999. Despite legislative and judicial efforts to ban marriage equality, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts became the first state to legally permit the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004. By 2015, 37 states permitted SSM and on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had a Constitutional right to marry.

While SSM laws are relatively new in the U.S., economists have begun to study their impacts on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) Americans and their families. There is emerging evidence that SSM laws increase same-sex marriage rates, health insurance coverage, and utilization of health services among men in same-sex partnerships (Carpenter et al., 2018). There is also evidence of SSM law-induced improvements in labor market outcomes (Sansone, 2018) and social attitudes toward sexual minorities (Aksoy et al., 2018).

A number of SSM advocates have posited that the effects of SSM laws could also extend to LGB youths, who are at an elevated risk of depression and suicide due to social stigma, homophobia, and discrimination. They argue that there are a number of indirect channels through which SSM could improve mental health among youths. If SSM laws are effective in changing social attitudes, youths may benefit from diminished stigmatization. Furthermore, the availability of legal marriage may change future expectations of family for younger generations of LGB individuals, who previously could expect (at most) legal accommodations of civil unions. It is also possible that the direct health and labor market benefits of SSM to same-sex couples in a youth's family may generate spillovers that improve adolescent health. Additionally, legal marriage for adult same-sex couples may provide strong role models for young LGB Americans that improve psychological health.





“As countries around the world consider enabling or restricting same-sex marriage, we provide evidence that implementing same-sex marriage policies was associated with improved population health. Policymakers should consider the mental health consequences of same-sex marriage policies.”

(Raifman et al., 2017, The Journal of the American Medical Association: Pediatrics)

“Rushing into empirical work before the data are ready or before an appropriate empirical strategy can be identified, is likely to cause more harm than good.”

(Allen and Price, 2015, Econ Journal Watch)

On the other hand, SSM could create a backlash in communities of which LGB members are a part, resulting in poorer mental health. SSM could also induce earlier teen relationship formation, which could introduce emotional tumult, or loosen ties between teens and their religious communities, which could have negative (or positive) psychological effects.

A recent paper published in *JAMA: Pediatrics* found that SSM laws substantially reduced suicide attempts among self-identified sexual minorities. However, a new investigation of this question by CHEPS graduate affiliate Kevin Hsu, Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director), and Mark Anderson (Montana State University and NBER) raises some doubts about this result. Their findings provides far weaker evidence that SSM laws improved the mental health of youth sexual minorities than was previously understood.

Using more years of data and evaluating additional state and Federal same-sex marriage policies, the authors find no evidence that SSM laws reduce depression, suicide ideation, or suicide planning among all youth, LGB-identifying youth, or non-LGB-identifying youth. Moreover, they fail to uncover evidence that SSM laws affected a wide set of risky health behaviors, including tobacco use, alcohol consumption, marijuana consumption, or bullying victimization.

The findings of this new CHEPS study suggest that while SSM laws may confer important benefits for adult same-sex couples, it is far too soon to conclude that these laws generated important health benefits for LGB-identifying youths.

DID TITLE IX REDUCE CRIME?

More than seven million American high school students participate in some form of school-sponsored athletic program. Youth sports participation has been linked to important benefits for participants, including increased educational attainment, greater aspirations for post-secondary schooling, and improved labor market outcomes. Furthermore, advocates of youth sports programs claim that the benefits of playing sports extend beyond participants.

A May 2018 White House Council of Economic Advisers report stated that youth sports programs enhance the “development of generalizable skills” that yield benefits not only for participants, but “for society as a whole.” Additionally, The United Nations argues that youth sports programs serve an important peacekeeping role by deterring crime and curbing drug use.



There are a number of channels through which youth sports participation could reduce crime. Cognitive and non-cognitive skill development among sports participants may facilitate human capital acquisition and improve labor market outcomes, resulting in higher opportunity costs of crime. In addition, sports-induced improvements in physical and mental health may result in less crime. Sports participation may also expose youths to positive mentoring, improve social networks, and broaden opportunities for post-secondary educational scholarships, each of which could reduce criminal activity.

In a new working paper, Gokhan Kumpas (University of New Hampshire) and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director) provide the first causal evidence on the impact of sports on crime. They exploit the introduction of Title IX, which required educational institutions to achieve greater gender parity in sports participation rates, to isolate the impact of female high school sports participation on female arrests. Using data from the 1980 to 2000 Uniform Crime Reports, their results show that increases in female sports participation induced by Title IX were associated with a significant decline in female arrests among affected cohorts of 25- to 39-year-olds. This effect was present across property, violent, and drug crimes.

“The magnitudes of our estimates suggest that the 25-percentage point increase in female sports participation caused by Title IX generated approximately \$5.7 billion in cost savings from declines in property and violent crimes,” Kumpas said. They also find that Title IX-induced increases in educational attainment, earnings and labor force participation are important mechanisms through which Title IX reduced female arrests.

GUN SAFE STORAGE LAWS AND JUVENILE HOMICIDES

One of the most recent mass school shootings in the United States has intensified the discourse over the safe storage of firearms after it was learned that the guns were taken from the shooter's home and belonged to his father. This comes at a time of rising youth gun violence and increasing public support for gun restrictions. For instance, a 2017 U.S. survey found that approximately 60 percent of gun owners backed safe-storage requirements for guns in households with children (Barry et al., 2018). As states grapple with decisions on gun control, many view child access prevention (CAP) laws as a preferred option compared to more divisive policies such as assault weapon bans and large-capacity magazine bans (Ingraham, 2018).

CAP laws encourage the safe storage of firearms by imposing liability on adults who allow children unsupervised access to guns. Accordingly, gun safety advocates support CAP laws as a way to limit firearm-related homicides, as well as a way to decrease suicides among minors and the number of children killed by unintentional shootings. On the other hand, critics argue that safe-storage requirements impede a person's ability to defend their home and family during a violent intrusion, and that these laws may actually increase incidences of murders, rapes, robberies, and other forms of violent crime.



As public calls for safe storage grow louder, it is likely that an increasing number of state legislatures will come under pressure to pass CAP laws or toughen their existing CAP requirements. In fact, one of the few municipal-level ordinances requiring the safe storage of firearms passed in Seattle, Washington on July 9, 2018. Yet, only 27 states and the District of Columbia currently have some form of CAP law in place. Recent estimates suggest that 7 percent of U.S. children (\approx 4.6 million) live in homes with an unlocked and loaded firearm.

While a literature on CAP laws exists, its focus is almost entirely on unintentional shooting deaths among children and youth suicides. Little is known about how these laws affect violent crime and, more specifically, homicides.

Using the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), a data source unique to the literature, this study is the first to explore the relationship between CAP laws and firearm-related homicides committed by juveniles. The authors focus on homicides, rather than other forms of violent crime, because information on the offender's age is available and the laws generate predictions as to which age groups should be most affected, predictions that could not be tested without age-specific information. Examining the

period between 1985 and 2013, a span when 26 states and the District of Columbia adopted CAP legislation, their estimates suggest that CAP laws are associated with a 19 percent reduction in the expected number of firearm-related homicides committed by juveniles, and this effect is driven by states enforcing a "negligent storage" standard, the strictest form of CAP legislation. Furthermore, they find that CAP laws are not associated with firearm-related homicides committed by adults nor are they associated with non-firearm-related homicides committed by juveniles, providing evidence that the relationship between CAP laws and juvenile firearm-related homicides is causal.

This study was authored by Mark Anderson (Montana State University, NBER and IZA), Erdal Tekin (American University, NBER, and IZA), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director).

THE EFFECT OF STATE E-VERIFY LAWS ON CRIME

“The supporters of E-Verify should also consider that one possible result of mandating that system is higher incarceration and more crime rates.”

- Cato Institute, February 2018

“We are deeply saddened by the murder of [Mollie Tibbetts]. We’re also deeply angry because this could have been prevented... This incident highlights the fact we need an even stronger E-verify system.”

- Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), August 22, 2018

Despite a scarcity of empirical evidence linking immigration to higher crime rates, surveys show that nearly half of Americans blame immigrants for increases in crime (Gallup, 2017). Public support for enhanced border security is strong and policies that target undocumented immigrants working or living in the U.S. have blossomed. Interior enforcement policies are designed to target approximately 42 percent of all undocumented immigrants who entered the United States legally on temporary visas but remained in the country beyond the allowable visa period. Such policies may also affect incentives for future immigration.

The most widespread interior enforcement policy in the United States is E-Verify, adopted by 23 states. Under this policy, employers are required to digitally verify the employment eligibility status of newly hired employees, comparing information on their Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) form with electronic records from the Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security. An employee’s name, social security number, date of birth, citizenship status, and additional noncitizen-related information is then compared to assess work eligibility. A mismatch will prompt an alert to the employer that must be resolved by the employee within 10 Federal work days or the employee will face termination of employment. Failure to comply with state E-Verify laws can result in substantial fines for employers, as well as license revocation.

The effect of E-Verify on crime is not clear. E-verify may increase the likelihood that undocumented immigrants are detected, resulting in an increase in immigration-related arrests. In addition, if E-Verify reduces employment opportunities for undocumented immigrants (Orrenius and Zavodny, 2015; Amuedo-Dorantes and Bansak, 2014), this may lead to an increase in property or drug crimes for income-generating purposes. Moreover, if E-Verify induces outmigration of likely undocumented immigrants, crime could fall because of population changes. Or, if E-Verify induces an inflow of low-skilled natives, crime could rise.

On the other hand, if E-Verify increases employment of low-skilled natives because low-skilled natives and immigrants are substitutes — or if E-Verify increases native workers’ wages by reducing the supply of available substitutes — then crime committed by natives may fall. E-Verify may also reduce arrests if younger working-age individuals leave a state in response to fewer job opportunities. To date, only a handful of studies have examined the impact of E-Verify on crime. These studies have been case studies of particular state E-Verify policies and the results are mixed.



Using data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) from 2004 to 2015, and exploiting temporal variation in the adoption of E-Verify mandates across states, this study comprehensively examines the impact of E-Verify on crime. Their results provide consistent evidence that E-Verify is associated with a 7 to 10 percent decline in property crime arrests among working age Hispanics. This finding is concentrated among males, those under age 45, and for E-Verify mandates that extend to private employers.

Supplemental analyses of data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) suggest two explanations for this result. First, likely undocumented Hispanic immigrants and low-skilled natives of Hispanic descent appear to be labor-labor substitutes. While the enactment of E-Verify reduces employment among low-skilled, likely undocumented Hispanic male immigrants, it increases employment among low-skilled native men of Hispanic descent. Second, they find some evidence of outmigration of likely undocumented immigrants ages 20 to 24, as well as low-skilled native Hispanic men under age 45 in response to E-Verify, though this outmigration does not appear to displace crime to nearby jurisdictions without E-Verify mandates.

Finally, turning to data from the Uniform Crime Reports, the authors find no evidence that E-Verify affected criminal arrests involving white or African-American adults, consistent with evidence that the impact of E-Verify on these demographic groups is small. They estimate that E-Verify generates social benefits of crime reduction of approximately \$491 million (in 2018 U.S. dollars).

This paper was authored by Andrew Dickinson (SDSU CHEPS MA Affiliate), Brandyn Churchill (PhD Candidate at Vanderbilt University), Taylor Mackay (PhD Candidate at the University of California, Irvine), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director).

DO GUN BUYBACK PROGRAMS BACKFIRE?

There are 1.2 guns for every man, woman and child in the United States, with the total number of firearms in circulation estimated to be over 393 million (Small Arms Survey, 2015). Gun violence is the leading cause of death among young men ages 15 to 19 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Firearms are involved in 51 percent of completed suicides and 73 percent of all homicides. The link between the supply of firearms and gun violence has been the subject of intense debate, both among policymakers and in the crime literature. However, there is growing evidence that reduced access to firearms is associated with a reduction in gun crime, both among adults and minors.

In an effort to reduce gun crime by limiting the supply of firearms in circulation, the first gun buyback program (GBP) was launched in Baltimore in October 1974. Since the Baltimore GBP, hundreds of U.S. cities have held GBPs. Newly proposed legislation by the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives would again allocate Federal funds for local GBPs (H.R. 1279, 2019).



The impact of GBPs on gun crime is a priori unclear. GBPs may reduce crime if marginal criminals who would otherwise commit crimes sell their guns to local governments and eschew criminal activity. GBPs may also reduce gun violence if law-abiding individuals sell their guns to local law enforcement, rendering them unavailable to would-be gun criminals who might steal them. On the other hand, if potential criminals believe law-abiding citizens are relinquishing their firearms, then criminals may be more willing to commit gun crimes because they perceive a declined risk of victims successfully defending themselves with deadly force. Moreover, if GBPs induce potential criminals to turn in less effective or older guns and use income to purchase newer, more effective guns, crime could rise. Finally, gun buyback programs could generate spillovers to non-gun crime if criminals substitute toward use of other weapons or if they abandon non-gun criminal enterprises that are complementary to gun violence.

Despite advocates' claims that GBPs may be an important tool in the war against gun crime, little is known about the impact of city GBPs on gun violence. This paper is the first to examine this question. Using agency-level data from the 1991 to 2015 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the authors estimate the relationship between GBPs and gun violence. Their findings provide no evidence that GBPs are effective at deterring gun violence either in the short or longer-run. With 95 percent confidence, they can rule out one-year gun crime declines of 1.3 percent and gun crime declines of greater than 2.3 percent one year or more after its enactment. Intriguingly, in the one to two month period following a GBP, they uncover evidence of a 7.0 percent *increase* in gun crimes with no corresponding change in non-gun crimes. The authors conclude that GBPs are an ineffective policy strategy to reduce gun violence and in fact, may have short-run unintended consequences.

This past spring, Toshio Ferrazares, a CHEPS student affiliate and second year MA student at SDSU, was given the opportunity to present this paper at the Eastern Economics Association meetings in New York. This opportunity to present research to scholars in the field was an invaluable experience for him. Building on this presentation, he will be presenting additional results at the upcoming Western Economic Association meetings in June. These presentations will be the first of many as Toshio hopes to build towards a career as an economist. He stated, "The skills that I have picked up while working on this project and preparing it for a conference will serve me well as I continue to conduct research and contribute to the science." In addition to Toshio, several other student affiliates have assisted as research assistants at various stages of the process.

Along with Toshio Ferrazares, this paper is co-authored by D. Mark Anderson (Montana State University, NBER & IZA), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director).

MARRIAGE MARKETS AND FEMALE LABOR MARKET OUTCOMES

A continuing CHEPS research project looks to evaluate the relationship between women's prospects for marriage and their labor market outcomes. The current project, ongoing between Shoshana Grossbard (San Diego State University and University of Chicago), Zach Fone (University of New Hampshire), and Joseph J. Sabia (CHEPS Director), extends the published work at the *Journal of Demographic Economics* by Craigie et al. (2018) titled "Racial Differences and the Effect of Marriageable Males on Female Family Headship." The authors show that a decline in the relative supply of marriageable males significantly increases the incidence of never-married female family headship among African Americans, but not whites.

Given this finding, and drawing on the expertise of Dr. Grossbard, a leading scholar in the economics of the household, our current project extends the above work to examine the effect of the supply of marriageable males on labor market outcomes of women, including their wage income, employment, and hours of work. To estimate the causal effect of the supply of marriageable men, the authors use state-level prison sentencing reforms as exogenous shocks to the supply of marriageable males as a "natural experiment." The findings of this study will provide important insights on the role of marriage markets in influencing the economic well-being of women.



THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT DEPENDENT COVERAGE MANDATE AND CRIME



On March 23rd, 2010, then President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. Six months later, on September 23rd, 2010, the Dependent Coverage Mandate (DCM) went into effect, which enables adult children to remain on their parents' employer-sponsored health insurance until they reach 26 years of age. The DCM is part of a series of components of the ACA that targets increases in insurance coverage, while also bringing "better" risks into the insurance risk pool. Many studies have found the DCM to achieve its primary objective of increasing insured rates of young adults (typically the most uninsured demographic).

A project by CHEPS Director Joseph J. Sabia, Dr. Brandy Lipton of San Diego State University, Dr. Andrew Friedson of the University of Colorado Denver, and Zach Fone (PhD Candidate, University of New Hampshire) examines the impact of the Affordable Care Act on crime.

Prior research has documented wide-ranging effects of the mandate, including increased insurance coverage and healthcare utilization (including mental health treatment), diminished employment, increases in school enrollment, and more time spent socializing.

The current project assesses whether the effects of the ACA extend to criminal behavior. For example, increased healthcare utilization, especially in regards to mental health, and the subsequent improvement in well-being may lower the propensity for people to commit crime. Additionally, evidenced by reductions in employment in response to the mandate, increases in insurance may act as an income shock for young adults, and thereby reduce their propensity for crime as a means to generate income.

Using data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), they explore the effect of the dependent coverage mandate on criminal behavior of 19- to 25-year-olds using a difference-in-differences approach. Preliminary analyses suggest that increased access to private health insurance may have had a protective effect on criminal behavior. This paper received comments from experts in this research area at the 94th Conference of the Western Economic Association in San Francisco, CA, held from June 28 to July 2, 2019.

BON VOYAGE: PHD-BOUND AFFILIATES

ANDREW DICKINSON

What motivated you to become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

Early in my undergraduate studies, I decided that obtaining a PhD in economics was an important, long-term goal of mine. I filled my class schedule with math and statistics courses to prepare for advanced study, but I had trouble finding opportunities to participate in research. When I discovered CHEPS, I was eager to get involved in research projects to gain valuable experience that would prepare me for a PhD program. More than anything this experience taught me that I have a lot more to learn about economics research, but I am very happy with my progress so far.



What are the most important skills you acquired?

The most important skill I have acquired is how to ask a research question. Everyday when I listen to the news or read articles, I am constantly asking questions to try and find a new project idea. I am sure this skill will be useful in the future as I pursue my PhD.

What will you remember most about your experiences as a graduate student here?

Since starting in August 2017, I have attended nearly 50 seminars hosted by CHEPS. As a CHEPS student affiliate, my peers and I had the opportunity to meet with each seminar speaker prior to their talk to discuss their research and past experiences. I learned so much about research, academia, and the economics profession in general from speakers. These meetings have always been one of my favorite benefits of working in the center and I will always remember these conversations.

How did your experiences here aid you in your choice of a PhD program?

I received a lot of exposure to the academic world as a CHEPS student affiliate. This exposure was critical to my choice of a PhD program because of insights into different universities. After participating in a seminar from Dr. Ben Hansen, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Oregon, I decided to send in an application to his program. I will start my PhD at the UO in Fall 2019.

During your time in CHEPS, you met with a lot of researchers from our Seminar Series. Who was your favorite and why?

My favorite seminar speaker was Dan Rees of University of Colorado Denver. He presented a paper that is now titled "Was the First Public Health Campaign Successful? The Tuberculosis Movement and its Effect on Mortality." In this paper, he analyzed the effectiveness of a public health campaign fighting tuberculosis in the early 20th century. I found his paper looking into a movement that started over a 100 years ago, and the way he presented it, fascinating. In addition, he gave excellent advice. I hope to see more of his talks in the future.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

My advice for future graduate affiliates is to take advantage of every opportunity that is provided by CHEPS. By being present, you will learn something new every seminar, speaker meeting, conference, and project meeting. After a while, every little thing you learn will add up to something substantial.

TOSHIO FERRAZARES

What motivated you to become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

I wanted to be involved in CHEPS to gain valuable experience conducting research and learning the path to becoming an economist. I entered the MA program with no prior research experience and am now exiting with a wide range of skills to deal with data, econometrics, and writing. Taking classes is just one part of preparing for a PhD program, and gaining research experience through CHEPS has both helped me gain acceptance to a PhD program and has given me a head start on developing my tools as a researcher.



What are the most important skills you acquired?

I believe that the most important skill that I acquired while working at CHEPS is how to approach a research question. I have become very careful with how I handle data, precise in how I estimate relationships, and knowledgeable with how to interpret results. All of these skills are paramount to approaching and answering a research question.

What will you remember most about your experiences as a graduate student here?

I will always remember my trip to New York to present my paper at the Eastern Economics Association meetings. This was my first research presentation and hopefully the first of many. Being so involved at such an early stage of my career really gave me a boost to conduct more research and network with other scholars.

How did your experiences here aid you in your choice of a PhD program?

My time in the MA program and as a student affiliate of CHEPS were incredibly helpful when applying to PhD programs. I have attended over 50 seminars and met scholars from schools all across the country. CHEPS and SDSU have been incredibly supportive in choosing the perfect fit of a program for next year.

During your time in CHEPS, you met with a lot of researchers from our Seminar Series. Who was your favorite and why?

My favorite seminar was from Corey White of Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, who presented a paper titled, "Measuring the Social and Externality Benefits of Influenza Vaccination." Since most states do not have much variation in their influenza vaccination take-up rate, Corey White used changes in the vaccination "match" to create state level variation in vaccination coverage. He uses this variation to measure the effect of vaccination on work absences and deaths due to illness. To me this paper showed both cleverness and ingenuity to answer a question relevant to economics, public health, and many other fields.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

In addition to travelling to conferences, CHEPS brings a large number of very influential and active researchers to San Diego. Each of these people have a different perspective and helpful advice on becoming a researcher. Asking questions about their seminar, their ongoing research, or just introducing yourself can go a long way. I have learned an immense amount of information about a career as an academic, the job market, constructing research questions, and how to approach an empirical problem. I encourage future CHEPS affiliates to take full advantage of the opportunities that the seminars bring to San Diego.

KYUTARO MATSUZAW

What motivated you to become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

I decided to join the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) because I believed being involved in it would be a great stepping stone toward achieving my goals. I aspire to go to a PhD program in economics and one day join academia. I am interested in studying applied microeconomics, and more specifically, health economics, which is something CHEPS is working on. Thus, I concluded that joining CHEPS would be a great opportunity for me to gain experience working in the area of my interest before starting my PhD program.



What are the most important skills you acquired?

There are two main skills I have acquired. One is learning how to use Stata to work with datasets. Prior to joining CHEPS, I only had experience working with Stata in a classroom setting. However, after joining CHEPS, I learned how to properly use Stata to clean data and generate outputs in a real-life setting. Secondly, I was able to observe how economic research is conducted. This includes how to find datasets, how to spot coding errors or data discrepancies, how to check for robustness, etc.

What will you remember most about your experiences as a graduate student here?

My work life here as a graduate student has been my most valuable experience. As a graduate student, I worked as a RA, conducted my own research, and taught a few classes. These tasks briefly gave me a sense of what a life in academia is like, and I fell in love with it. I found out that I enjoy both researching and teaching. I believe these experiences enhanced my passion towards joining academia.

How did your experiences here aid you in your choice of a PhD program?

While working with CHEPS, I had great opportunities to meet many seminar speakers from different schools. Many of the speakers advised me how to narrow down my choices of top PhD programs. In addition, they provided me interesting facts about their PhD programs. Although I am not exactly sure which PhD programs I will be applying to, meeting many different researchers from different universities has helped point me in the right direction.

During your time in CHEPS, you met with a lot of researchers from our Seminar Series. Who was your favorite and why?

One of my favorite speakers I met was Dr. Joe Price from Brigham Young University. His research in using machine learning was really interesting and caught my attention. After attending his seminar and talking to him, I developed a strong interest in machine learning. I will definitely pursue the field of machine learning for future research purposes.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

Future CHEPS graduate affiliates are very fortunate to become part of CHEPS, especially if they are intending to go to a PhD program. Dr. Sabia is a great resource and he will definitely help his students gain more skills in becoming better researchers. So, I highly recommend everyone take advantage of their opportunities to work with Dr. Sabia and always listen to whatever advice he gives.

ALEXANDER CHESNEY

What motivated you to become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

In my undergraduate program, I studied applied mathematics and was very interested in how researchers could use mathematical and statistical models to answer policy relevant questions. I was given a unique opportunity by the U.S. Air Force to study full-time at San Diego State University as a graduate student. As a military officer, I was particularly interested in examining issues regarding the health and welfare of military members in which I actively searched for research opportunities. Professor Joseph Sabia offered me the chance that I believed very few MA students at other programs ever received—researching on a subject that both resonated with my personal and professional interests while working with a very accomplished economist and researcher in the field.



What are the most important skills you acquired?

Doing worthwhile economic research is a very important skill that I believe most PhD students don't fully understand until their 3rd year in a program. As a MA student, in addition to the rigorous coursework in microeconomics, econometrics, and computer coding, I was given a step-by-step guide by Professor Sabia on how the research process begins with an idea and ends with a contribution to the economic literature. Although research gets messy at times, I was given a clear roadmap that connected the literature review process, data-collection, developing and implementing identification strategies, and finally writing a manuscript.

What will you remember most about your experiences as a graduate student here?

I really enjoyed the SDSU community. I will remember fondly working with my fellow MA students on problem sets for microeconomics and the comradery developed as we tackled the challenging curriculum. I also will remember those late hours working on the research projects with faculty and their willingness to provide much needed guidance any time.

How did your experiences here aid you in your choice of a PhD program?

I had a very positive experience during my time at San Diego State University because of the research opportunities and the academic community. In searching for a PhD program, I knew I wanted to have a very similar experience, so I sought out an economics department that was very collegial and had experts in applied microeconomics. This search led me to the University of California, Davis where I was very impressed by both the research opportunities and the collegial relationship between faculty and PhD students.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

Search for research opportunities that truly resonate with your interests. If the topic doesn't pull at your heart-strings, then drop it and begin searching for something else because you will be investing a significant amount of time and energy on it. Also, try to connect the valuable quantitative and critical thinking skills you acquire to your life after graduate school. Always be thinking how you can apply what you are learning now to your next phase in life in either business or academia. Finally, continue to nurture your relationships with peers and the faculty because that is what you will remember most from your time at SDSU and CHEPS.

NIRANJANA PRASAD

What motivated you to become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

While I always knew I wanted to get into a PhD program, I felt that I lacked the skills to execute publish-worthy research projects or even proposals to begin with. I believe that being a part of a strong research team such as CHEPS that continuously endeavors to produce quantitatively and qualitatively rigorous deliverables not only made me a stronger candidate to a PhD program but also a better researcher for international development organizations such as the World Bank.

What are the most important skills you acquired?

The Stata boot camp and weekly meetings to go over research outputs were instrumental in moulding my current work process at my current work place. I also appreciate the fact that Prof. Sabia invests in his RAs' human capital and encourages us to pursue our PhD aspirations.

What will you remember most about your experiences as a graduate student here?

My most memorable experiences while at CHEPS were our weekly meetings; they helped us stick to deadlines and to view our work from the perspective of a seasoned economist. These were didactic as Prof. Sabia encouraged us to think laterally to solve our research problems. They were also punctuated with hilarious jokes from an often exasperated professor trying to lead a group of young, enthusiastic RAs. I look back on these meetings with great fondness and gratitude.

How did your experiences here aid you in your choice of a PhD program?

Before CHEPS, I was set to pursue a PhD in macroeconomics; my electives, projects, and teaching modules reflected that. The seminar series at CHEPS exposed me to a plethora of research topics, methodologies, and literature in the sphere of applied microeconomics that intrigued me. After several such seminars, whenever I read about a policy, my first thought was regarding the model used to assess the impact of such a policy or to dig deeper to find datasets that could help answer such questions. It left a lasting impression on me and based on this, I sought PhD programs that had faculty with a track record of publishing well not just in microeconomics, but specifically in health and public economics. My experience at CHEPS completely changed the course of my academic aspirations.

During your time in CHEPS, you met with a lot of researchers from our Seminar Series. Who was your favorite and why?

My favourite paper was titled, "Was the First Public Health Campaign Successful?" by Daniel I. Rees. The paper delved into historical mortality data from the early 1900s to look at the impact of public health measures taken during the tuberculosis movement. I appreciated the dedication that takes to ensure data sanity from historical data and the effort from the authors to answer the research questions in a manner that was accessible to everyone. I was motivated to pursue research that emulated this paper and its authors' work ethic.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

Take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to you as CHEPS affiliates; they will open more doors for you in the future.



SEMINAR SERIES

During the 2018-19 Academic Year, CHEPS hosted 25 seminars from external speakers, including 13 speakers in the Spring Semester. The speakers, being experts in their fields, presented on a range of topics including labor, health, education, and family economics. These economists come from a mix of institutional backgrounds, including research universities (Texas A&M University, University of Minnesota, Brigham Young University, American University, Simon Fraser University, University of Colorado Boulder, Temple University, Bentley University, The Ohio State University, the University of California, Irvine, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico, and University of California, San Diego), Federal Reserve Banks (Atlanta and Dallas), and a private research corporation (RAND Corporation).

These weekly seminars were attended by CHEPS affiliates which include professors from across disciplines, as well as undergraduate and graduate students. These events helped to expand the research interests of students and allowed Economics professors at SDSU to network with faculty from other universities. Importantly, CHEPS affiliates were able to meet with presenters in small group sessions to discuss their research and academic experiences, as well as seek advice about their future careers. Several invited speakers discussed the relative quality of various Economics PhD programs with students and gave them advice on how to select the best match. These networking opportunities for students were invaluable. The Research Seminar Series brought a number of interesting working papers to campus. Many of the highlights are outlined below.



To start the Fall semester CHEPS seminar series, Dr. Dean R. Lillard from The Ohio State University presented the working paper, “Information and Safe Sex: Are Better Informed Youth More Likely to Use Contraceptives and Condoms?” joint work with Yehia Mekawi. They investigate whether information changes individuals’ sexual behavior. They focus on information about sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Using National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLSY97) data, they find that both men and women change

their sexual behavior as their stock and flow of information changes. Women's use of condoms responds more to information about STIs than that of men. In addition, both men and women initiate sex later when they see more information about STIs.

Delia Furtado of the University of Connecticut presented her working paper, “Do Immigrant Inflows Improve Quality of Care in Nursing Homes?” co-authored with Francese Ortega of CUNY-Queens College. Utilizing data from the Census Bureau, Long Term Care Focus Project, and the American Community Survey, they observe improvements in different nursing home qualities of care in areas with a higher share of immigrants.

David Neumark of University of California, Irvine presented “The Long-Run Effects of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Women’s Earnings” this past fall. This paper finds that unmarried mothers of young children had higher long run earnings and hours when exposed to more generous earned income tax credits. In contrast, married mothers of young children with similar exposure had lower long run earnings and hours.

Jennifer Doleac of Texas A&M University presented "Algorithmic Risk Assessment Tools in the Hands of Humans," which looked at the unintended consequences of algorithmic risk assessments on judges' sentencing decisions and recidivism rates. Dr. Doleac and co-author Megan Stevenson of George Mason University find that judges respond to risk-assessment scores in their sentencing decisions. However, these decisions did not result in lower recidivism rates but rather, had the unintended consequence of increasing sentencing disparities.

Angela Fertig (University of Minnesota) and Catherine Maclean (Temple University) presented research on the economics of mental health. Dr. Fertig found strong evidence of a link between childhood food insecurity and poor adult psychological health. Dr. Maclean examined changes to the supply of mental health services and found that access to such services is negatively related to crime.

Shoshana Grossbard (San Diego State University and University of Chicago), a pioneer in household economics, presented her seminal work-in-household (WIHO) model and its important applications to polygamy, coverture, divorce law, and domestic violence.

Joe Price from Brigham Young University shared new work (conducted with his Record Linking Lab team) combining (i) historical records on family ties, and (ii) machine learning techniques, to link individuals across U.S. Census records. Their work will have transformational consequences for social science research.

Kevin Schnepel of Simon Fraser University, Rosalie Pacula of RAND Corporation, and Dhaval Dave of Bentley University all shared work at the forefront of our understanding of the economics of substance abuse, examining



heroin, marijuana, and tobacco consumption, respectively. Dr. Schnepel examined the impact of an Australian heroin supply shock that dramatically reduced the availability of heroin. He found that this shock resulted in immediate and persistent declines in opioid-related mortality as well as long-term declines in property and violent crime. Dr. Pacula found that medical marijuana laws with legal protections for dispensaries result in delayed quitting behavior for male racial minorities. Finally, Dr. Dave provided evidence that e-cigarette advertising may have showed that exposure to e-cigarette ads may have important public health benefits. His results show that increased exposure to e-cigarette ads increases successful quit attempts among adult tobacco smokers.

The 2019-20 Academic Year will be another exciting time for the CHEPS Seminar Series with a fabulous lineup already in place.

FALL 2019 RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

THURSDAYS 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
FINCH CONFERENCE ROOM (AL 660)



AUGUST 30*

Scott Cunningham
Baylor University
Economics of Crime

OCTOBER 10
Christine Durrance
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Health Economics



SEPTEMBER 5

Kasey Buckles
University of Notre Dame
Economics of the Family

OCTOBER 17
Francisca Antman
University of Colorado Boulder
Labor Economics



SEPTEMBER 12

Sarah Hamersma
Syracuse University
Public Economics

OCTOBER 31
Charles Courtemanche
University of Kentucky
Health Economics



SEPTEMBER 26

Nicolas Ziebarth
Cornell University
Labor Economics

NOVEMBER 14
Jeff Weaver
University of Southern California
Health Economics



OCTOBER 3

Jason Lindo
Texas A&M University
Health Economics

NOVEMBER 21
Scott Carrell
University of California, Davis
Economics of Education



MORE INFO AT:
CHEPS.SDSU.EDU

DECEMBER 5
Christopher Carpenter
Vanderbilt University
Health Economics



*Prof. Cunningham's seminar will take place on a Friday from 2-3:15 PM.

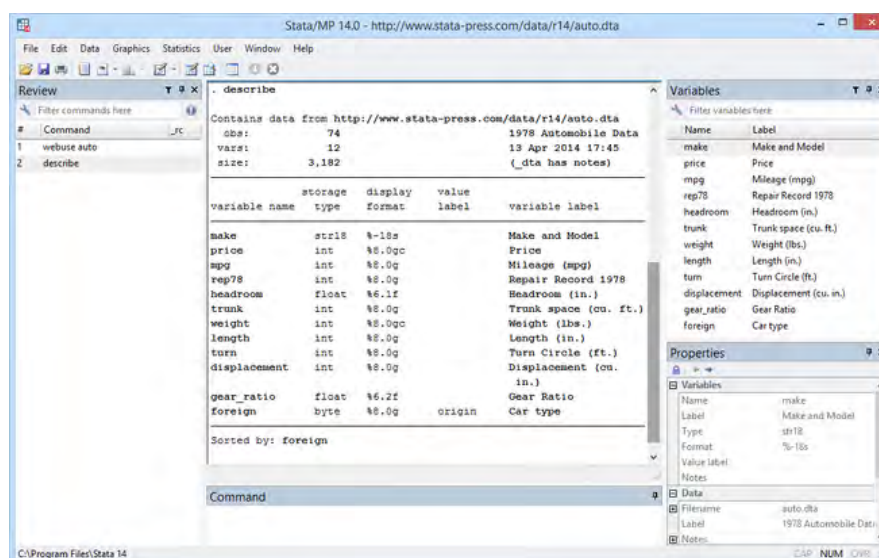
STATA BOOT CAMP 2019

CHEPS held its annual Summer Stata Boot Camp in August 2019. This intense workshop served several purposes. At the boot camp, new CHEPS-affiliated students were introduced to various Stata commands, focusing on those that are often used in conducting empirical studies in applied microeconomics, including pooling data from public sources, reading them into Stata, creating new variables of interest, transforming datasets, combining different datasets, and performing statistical analyses.

The boot camp also aimed to develop careful coding skills. One of the main focuses of this training was “doing it right,” rather than “doing it quickly.” The boot camp explored common mistakes one could make with each of the Stata commands and students learned how to avoid them. New students were also given a great deal of time to develop the habits of double and triple checking their work, an essential skill for successful applied economists.

The boot camp explored management and careful coding of “big data,” including popular public datasets that have been used in previous and current CHEPS projects. Some examples of these datasets include the Current Population Survey (CPS), the American Community Survey (ACS), the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), the General Social Survey (GSS), the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), and the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) data. Students learned to utilize codebooks and other documentation to organize data and create variables. Students also had an opportunity to practice their Stata skills with assignments created using these datasets.

In addition to the intensive boot camp, students will have regular meetings throughout the Fall semester to discuss and share Stata codes used in CHEPS students’ RA assignments.



CHEPS DOCTORAL AFFILIATES ENTER JOB MARKET

BRITTANY BASS

Brittany Bass is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Irvine. Brittany received her MA in economics from San Diego State University in 2014, and her BS in business administration with concentrations in economics and finance from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington in 2012. Brittany's research and teaching interests include public economics, labor economics, education, and health. In her primary research, she uses quasi-experimental methods to study the impact of state and local policies on student achievement and student health. She also has coauthored work examining the long-run effects of anti-poverty policies on disadvantaged neighborhoods. Brittany will be joining the Department of Economics at Sacramento State University as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2019.



TIMOTHY YOUNG



Timothy Young is a PhD student graduating from University of California, Irvine in June 2019. He is a labor economist who focuses on the impacts of criminal justice policies and discrimination on human behavior. In his job market paper, he shows that ex-offenders who return to areas with higher availability of affordable rentals houses are less likely to return to prison. In previous research at San Diego State University, he worked with Professor Sabia on research that showed the enactment of medical marijuana laws led to lower body weight for younger individuals, and this effect appeared to be driven by substitution between high calorie alcoholic beverages with marijuana. Timothy will be joining Analysis Group as an Associate in their Los Angeles office in August 2019.

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTS

RYAN ABMAN

CHEPS affiliate Ryan Abman, with the support of a CHEPS Faculty Research Fellowship, continued research on deforestation and has undertaken some preliminary work on crime and police-related shootings in the U.S.

Ryan's primary research focus aims to understand the political and economic drivers of deforestation. As the second leading contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions and one of the most important drivers of habitat loss for vulnerable species, slowing global climate change and preserving current rates of biodiversity both depend greatly on the international community's ability to slow deforestation. In joint work with Professor (and fellow CHEPS affiliate) Clark Lundberg titled, "Does Free Trade Increase Deforestation? The Effects of Regional Trade Agreements," the authors examine whether deforestation and agricultural expansion increase with the enactment of Free Trade Agreements (FTA). Using the timing of FTA enactment, the paper finds evidence that FTAs do increase deforestation, particularly in developing countries in the tropics. This work brings improved evidence (both in data and research design) to the relationship of trade and deforestation. This manuscript was submitted during the CHEPS fellowship and has recently received a 'revise and resubmit' at *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*.

In other work titled, "Agricultural Productivity and Deforestation: Evidence from input subsidies and ethnic favoritism in Malawi," Ryan and colleague Conor Carney examine whether increased agricultural productivity accelerates or slows deforestation in a context of low-productivity, small-scale agriculture common to much of the developing world. Using satellite data on deforestation, the authors examine the effects of a fertilizer subsidy policy in Malawi that offered limited quantities, to households, of nearly free fertilizer for maize production. While eligibility requirements were murky, the authors show evidence of ethnic favoritism in subsidy allocation and leverage that variation to find that fertilizer increased yields and reduced deforestation. The CHEPS fellowship has allowed Ryan the opportunity to revise and submit an updated version of this manuscript.

Other submitted work during the CHEPS fellowship includes "Land rights, agricultural productivity and deforestation in Vietnam", a paper that examines the role that formal land tenure plays in agricultural land decisions. Using a novel household dataset that revisits households and land plots from 2008 to 2016, Ryan and Conor study whether formal land titling increases investment in the agricultural land and/or changes how a household uses the land. Land title does seem to increase intensification but also tends to lead households to switch land out of forestry. On net, increases in the share of land with formal title seem to increase deforestation at the very local level in Vietnam.



The research fellowship has also provided Ryan the opportunity to start a number of new projects. In another project with Professor Lundberg, Ryan studies how the transition to locally elected leaders (from appointed local leaders) in Indonesia impacted deforestation and development. Another project underway with Professor Hisham Foad will study the impact of the 2006 Secure Fence Act on local crime using geospatial data on border fence construction dates. Lastly, joint work underway with CHEPS affiliate Audrey Beck seeks to study the role of risk salience in police-involved shooting deaths.

CATALINA AMUEDO-DORANTES

Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes is Professor of Economics at San Diego State University and a Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), the Center for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM) at University College London, and the Foundation for Applied Economic Research (FEDEA). She is a nationally renowned scholar on the economics of immigration, with her work appearing in leading economics and public policy journals including the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, *Labour Economics*, the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and the *American Economic Review (Proceedings)*. She has also served as past President-elect of the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE).



Catalina's recent research focuses on the economic impacts of state and Federal immigration policies. Among the policies she has examined include the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, E-Verify (electronic employment eligibility verification), in-state tuition benefits and drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, and refugee settlement programs. Her work concludes that stricter immigration enforcement policies have substantial negative effects for many immigrant families, particularly for children, and fail to generate large benefits for natives. Because immigrants contribute to our nation's economic growth, failing to account for these economic benefits may result in unwise and inefficient government policies.

Moreover, in a recent *IZA World of Labor* publication, Catalina highlighted a hidden cost of restrictive immigration policies: deterring assimilation and civic engagement:

"[T]he literature has documented a number of unintended consequences of intensified immigration enforcement, which range from household relocation to living in the shadows. A growing number of American children now endure a higher likelihood of life in poverty following restricted access to employment opportunities and the deportation of breadwinning household heads. They exhibit worse schooling outcomes, have a higher propensity to end up in foster care, and, not surprisingly, lack the interest to be civically engaged as they reach adulthood" (*IZA World of Labor*, <https://wol.iza.org/opinions/self-inflicted-wounds-of-closed-borders>).



Catalina's scholarship has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

AUDREY BECK

Police-related deaths (PRDs)—intentional or unintentional citizen deaths that occur during police-citizen contact—are increasingly cited by citizens and scholars as a public health problem in the United States. For instance, recent work finds that high profile fatalities reduce 911 calls in black communities, a critical mechanism by which such deaths may affect the health of the community broadly and exacerbate extant inequalities. Further, such deaths are also, in part, a product of police department-level (e.g. pursuit policies, military equipment receipt from the 1033 program) and state-level policies (e.g. firearm legislation). Despite the importance of such deaths, PRDs have yet to be thoroughly quantified by any public surveillance system in the United States. My research utilizes a novel, crowd-sourced, data source to address this gap: the Fatal Encounters Project (FE). Variable availability in FE is much more extensive than other sources and includes the following: decedent's full name, decedent's age, decedent's gender, decedent's race/ethnicity, URL image of decedent, date of incident/death, location of death, GPS coordinates, agency involved, circumstances of death, details of the death (e.g., routine arrest, suspicion of activity), indicators of symptoms of mental illness in the victim, judicial disposition, and links to news articles. Perhaps the most important variable in FE that is missing from nearly every other source is the identification of the police agency(ies) primarily responsible. This is essential for analyses that explore police-department level policies and how they affect the prevalence of police-related death.



Colleagues and I have recently published an article entitled, “Using Crowd-Sourced Data to Explore Police-Related-Deaths in the United States (2000-2017): The Case of Fatal Encounters” in *Open Health Data*, which serves as a forum for announcing and documenting novel health data sources such as the Health and Retirement Study, among others. In this article, we argue that Fatal Encounters is the largest collection of police-related-deaths and remains the best source for historical trend comparisons and police-department level analyses. We compared coverage of Fatal Encounters data to several known government sources of police-related-deaths and police homicide data and replicated incident selection from a recent innovative review of the National Violent Death Reporting System. We also document a number of advantages such

as the inclusion of the circumstance of death specificity, incident geo-locations, identification of involved police-agencies, and near immediate availability of the data. We recently presented a related paper at the Population Association of America’s annual meeting in Austin, Texas where we introduced new Bayesian Imputed Surname Geocoding (BISG) estimates of race/ethnicity in the Fatal Encounters data (courtesy of my colleague Joseph Gibbons). I am currently working on creating and finalizing state-level firearm and police department policies as well as other measures at the police department level. Specifically, we are merging FE data with socio-demographic data from the Census/American Community Survey, data from the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA), crime data from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports, hospital emergency room data from the American Hospital Association’s annual survey, firearm counts and policies from various sources, and police-department demographics and policies from both the Census of Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLEA) and the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS). Once finalized, I will begin additional analyses on the relationship between these policies and police-related-deaths. This summer, I anticipate investigating the relationship between PRDs and measures of firearm policies and density as well as utilizing the geocoded data to examine individual-level health correlates of neighborhood PRDs.

SHOSHANA GROSSBARD

Shoshana Grossbard is Professor Emerita of Economics at San Diego State University and Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics. She is also a member of the Family Inequality Network at the University of Chicago. Shoshana is a leading scholar in the economics of marriage and the family. Her work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*. She serves as president of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO), which held its third annual conference on May 27-28, 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal, and is the Founding Editor of *Review of Economics and the Household*.

Shoshana has two book chapters forthcoming: “The Family Economy: Marriage Markets and the Feminist Revolution” in *A Cultural History of Marriage* (Bloomsbury Books), and “Women’s neoclassical models of marriage, 1972-2015” in the *Routledge Handbook of the History of Women’s Economic Thought* (UK: Taylor & Francis Publishing Group). In addition, she co-authored a new article with Hazem Alshaikhmubarak (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Richard Geddes (Cornell University) on the impact of the abolition of coverture in the United States in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. In this piece, they conclude that expanding women’s right to property in marriage increased the gains to marriage for women, resulting in less out-of-wedlock childbearing.

“Under the common-law system of coverture in the United States, a married woman relinquished control of property and wages to her husband. Many U.S. states passed acts between 1850 and 1920 that expanded a married woman's right to keep her market earnings and to own separate property...We find that the[se] property acts in fact reduced the likelihood that single women have young children. We also find that the “de-coverture” acts’ effects were stronger for literate women, for U.S.-born women, in states with higher female labor-force participation, and in more rural states...”



Among Shoshana’s keynote addresses in 2019-20 are her talk on “Gender and Economics of the Household,” at the Australian Gender Economics Workshop at Queensland University of Technology, and “The Economics of Marriage” at the 2019 Family Law Symposium (The New American Family) at DePaul University College of Law. Shoshana is very active on social media, especially on Twitter, where she currently has 4,740 followers. Follow her @econoflove.



BRANDY LIPTON



Participating in the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS) and receiving a 2018-2019 CHEPS Faculty Research Fellowship has accelerated my research in a variety of ways. The CHEPS seminar series provides exposure to new ideas and the opportunity to interact with high profile researchers from other institutions. The Center also brings together a diverse set of researchers interested in health economics and policy, enhancing the scholarly environment at SDSU. It is a wonderful community, and I have enjoyed my interactions with affiliated faculty and students. The fellowship has provided additional support for my research, and has aided my progress on several projects.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, two articles were either published or accepted for publication, including research examining the

impact of public smoking bans on infant and child health outcomes that was accepted at *American Journal of Health Economics* in March 2019. I also revised and resubmitted research assessing the association between vision coverage and employment outcomes in response to an invitation from *Journal of Human Resources*. This revision was submitted in January 2019 and is currently under review at the journal.

During my fellowship, I completed an analysis of the spillover effects of Medicaid adult dental benefits on dental visits among low-income children. This work is available as a CHEPS working paper and has also been submitted for journal consideration. This paper poses the question of whether the design of parental Medicaid benefit packages could serve as a new mechanism for reducing unmet health care needs among low-income insured children. I leverage state-level variation in dental benefits to examine this question. Similar to prior research, I find that dental coverage is associated with a 14 percentage point increase in the likelihood that a parent had a dental visit in the past year. Among children with at least one parent enrolled in Medicaid, adult dental coverage is associated with about a 5 percentage point increase in the likelihood of a recent dental visit. This estimate represents an 11% increase relative to the average visit rate (48%). These effects appear to be concentrated among children under age 12, with little evidence of an effect among children ages 12-17. I estimate effects in the expected direction for other outcomes plausibly related to increased access to child dental care, including emergency department visits and missed school days, however none of these estimates are statistically significant at conventional levels. Among both parents and children, effects are concentrated among those more likely to be affected by Medicaid adult dental coverage policies (i.e., those in low-income and low-education households).

Exploratory analyses of potential mechanisms indicate that the perception of cost-related barriers to child dental care is unlikely to provide a complete explanation of the main findings. Further, there is no evidence of improvements in a parent's employment prospects or reductions in cost-related burdens for other types of medical care. Information gained through a parent's dental visit may provide a more likely explanation for the results. In addition to CHEPS support, this work also received funding from the William T. Grant Foundation.

CLARK LUNDBERG

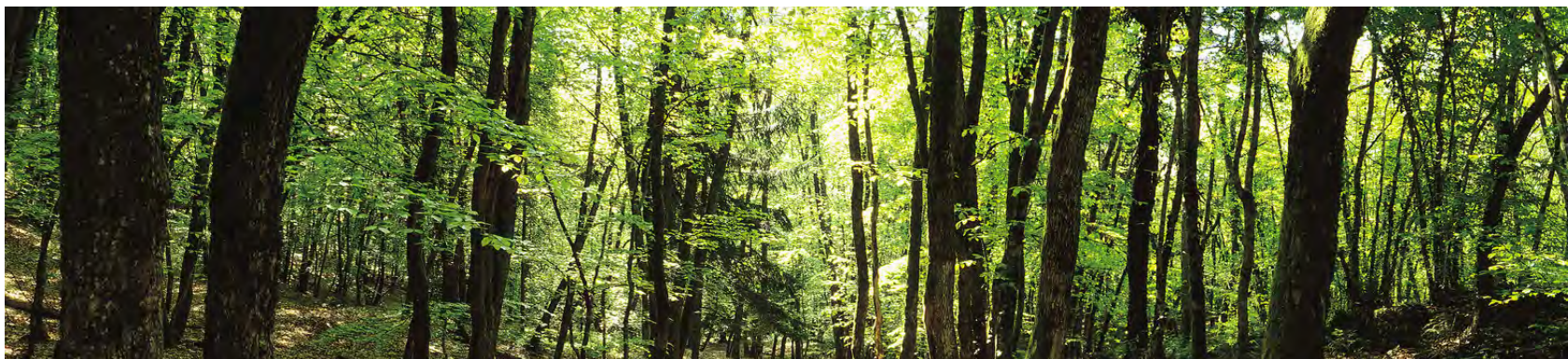
My recent scholarship emphasizes work in two main fields — environmental and agricultural economics, and finance.

My paper “Does Free Trade Increase Deforestation? The Effects of Regional Trade Agreements” received revise and resubmit at the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (JAERE)*, the top field journal in environmental and resource economics. This work is joint with Ryan Abman at San Diego State University. I am also presenting another paper joint with Ryan Abman titled, “Commodity Volatility and Deforestation: A Real Option Model of Agricultural Land Conversion,” at the Western Economics Association International. We plan on submitting this paper to either *JAERE* or the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* this summer.



A very promising third project with Ryan Abman looking at the political economy of Indonesian transition to direct local elections is also well underway. We aim to have this project completed by late summer or early fall and subsequently submitted to the *Journal of Public Economics* or the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*. I am presenting another paper on agricultural commodities, “Demystifying Horizon-based Heterogeneity in the Relationship between Agricultural Commodities and Crude Oil” — joint with Tristan Skolrud (University of Saskatchewan), Bahram Adrangi, and Arjun Chatrath (University of Portland) — at the 2019 annual meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. We will be submitting this article to the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* — the top field journal in agricultural economics — after incorporating feedback from the conference.

I also had a sole-authored finance article, “Identifying Horizon-based Heterogeneity in the Cross Section of Portfolio Returns” accepted at the *Economics Bulletin*. Additionally, this semester I started a new project at the intersection of finance and environmental economics with Jonathan Kalodimos at Oregon State University and Leigh Riddick at American University. Our current work on this project considers financial market responses to climate risk salience. Finally, I continued to refine two additional finance papers joint with Babak Lotfaliei at San Diego State University on debt-free firms — “Reevaluating the Trade-off Theory of Capital Structure: Evidence from Zero-Leverage Firms” and “Finite-horizon Zero-leverage Firms.”



YANG LIANG

My research focuses on how countries, firms, and individuals react to globalization and market integration. Recent projects examine the impact of trade expansion on US labor markets, heterogeneous effects of offshoring on Korean manufacturing firms, and how China's foreign investment policies shape foreign firms' entry and export decisions.

One of my working papers has been recently accepted for publication at the China Economic Review. Prior to joining SDSU, I have one published book chapter with the Upjohn Institute and a policy brief with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

CHEPS seminars have been an incredible gift to faculty and students who are interested in policy-relevant research. As a junior faculty, I benefited tremendously from the invited speakers and their talks covering a wide variety of topics.



HAO TENG



My research combines econometric models with emerging big data sources to create novel causal inference approaches. My areas of interest include child development, education policy, the economics of crime, social networks, and health economics. My recent project implements a newly developed identification strategy to estimate the effect of children's time allocation on their skill formation. I am currently investigating the causal impact of social networks on consumer behaviors, and the relationship between neighborhood change and crime.

One of my working papers has been recently published at a high quality, peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*. CHEPS seminars have provided enormous value to faculty members like me at SDSU. The weekly seminars offer me an opportunity to update my knowledge, exchange ideas with economists from other institutions and develop new professional relationships.

NEW CHEPS PARTNERS AT UCSD



PRASHANT BHARADWAJ

Prashant Bharadwaj is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He received his PhD in Economics from Yale University. Prashant's research interests are in development and labor economics, focusing on the interactions between early childhood health, gender, and education. He is also a Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and holds research affiliations at the Center for Effective Global Action, the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. Prashant is co-editor at the *Journal of Human Resources* and an associate editor at the *Journal of Development Economics*.

Prashant's recent work on the perverse consequences of India's Child Labor Act of 1986 has garnered a great deal of attention. In this paper, co-authored with Leah Lakdawala and Nicholas Li and forthcoming in the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Prashant finds that the child labor ban causes child wages to *decrease* and child labor to *increase* after the ban on child. These results are consistent with families using child labor to achieve a level of subsistence. Moreover, where child wages decrease in response to bans, poor families use *more* child labor, which comes at the expense of school enrollment. This study highlights the unintended consequences of a well-intentioned government policy.

Prashant's scholarship on labor, health, and development topics has appeared in such journals as the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Labor Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Journal of Health Economics*.

JEFFREY CLEMENS

Jeffrey Clemens is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research and an affiliate of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute at the University of California, Irvine. He is currently an associate editor at the *Journal of Health Economics* and *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. He has previously held visiting positions at Stanford University and the University of Texas at Austin. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2011 and his BA from Harvard College in 2005.

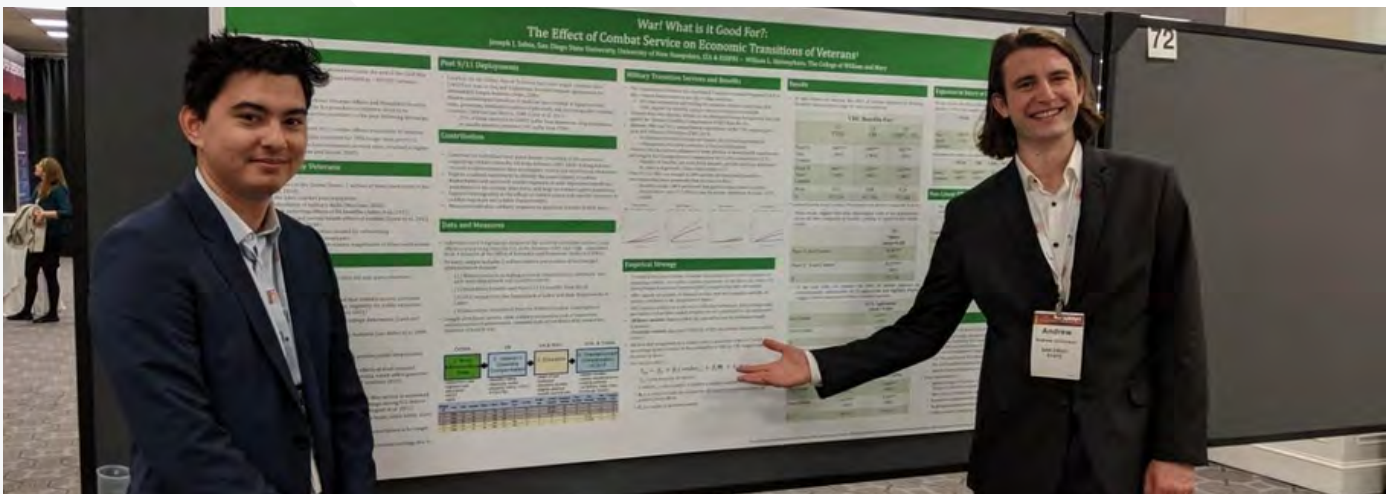


Clemens's research interests extend across a range of topics in public, health, and labor economics. In addition to studying the U.S. health sector, his research has analyzed the economics of state and local government finances and the effects of the minimum wage. In a series of ongoing projects, Clemens and co-authors are analyzing the effects of recent minimum wage changes enacted by U.S. states. His work has appeared in such journals as the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, and the *National Tax Journal*.

CONFERENCES

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Between November 8 and 10, 2018, CHEPS student affiliates Andrew Dickinson, Toshio Ferrazares, and Travis Freidman attended the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) annual conference in Washington D.C. to present posters of CHEPS academic work. Travis Freidman presented his joint work with Dr. Sabia and Dr. Resul Cesur entitled, "Death, Trauma, and God: The Effects of Military Deployments on Religiosity," while Andrew Dickinson and Toshio Ferrazares presented the working paper, "War! What is it Good For? The Effects of Combat Service on Economics Transitions of Veterans," by Dr. Sabia and Dr. William Skimmyhorn. The annual APPAM conference is a premier forum for interdisciplinary research comprised of 300 small setting panel sessions, 8 super sessions focused on a particular policy area, and 2 large poster conventions. Beyond the importance of gaining experience presenting academic work, conferences like APPAM give CHEPS student affiliates the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by cutting edge research from prominent scholars. As always, CHEPS conference attendees are grateful for the opportunity to attend such enriching research symposiums.



SOUTHERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

From November 18-20, 2018, Dr. Sabia along with four CHEPS student affiliates (Cal Bryan, Zach Fone, Gokhan Kumpas, and Tam Nguyen) attended the 2018 Southern Economic Association (SEA) meetings in Washington, DC. Dr. Sabia presented two of his working papers. One of them, coauthored with Dr. William Skimmyhorn at USMA-West Point, examines the effect of combat assignments on take-up of post-separation transitional benefits and longer-run economic self-sufficiency among veterans who served during the Global War on Terror. Additionally, he was able to present with Dr. Mark Anderson of Montana State University on the impact firearm Child Access Prevention laws had on juvenile homicide rates.

Gokhan Kumpas, a University of New Hampshire PhD candidate in Economics, presented his current work on female sports participation and crime. Zach Fone, also a PhD candidate at UNH, presented his work on the effect minimum wage increases have on the crime rate, work done in conjunction with Dr. Sabia and Dr. Resul Cesar. This conference proved to be an excellent networking opportunity for MA and PhD students alike, and helped engage them in recent trends in economic research.

POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEETINGS

From April 10-13, 2019, CHEPS Director, Joseph Sabia, and CHEPS affiliated students, Gokhan Kumpas and Tam Nguyen, attended the 2019 Population Association of America (PAA) meetings in Austin, TX. These meetings attract international and U.S. scholars from various disciplines, including economics, sociology, public health, demography, history, epidemiology, and political science. These are unique opportunities for CHEPS students to interact and learn from interdisciplinary scholarship, their frameworks and methodologies, topics of interest as well as new sources of data.

Besides typical sessions of presentations, the conference also offers numerous workshops on statistical methods, data usage and visualization, and professional development (such as Economic Demography workshop, IPUMS Time Use Data for Studying Health & Well-Being, CPS ASEC for Demographic Research, Add Health: Design, Data, Access and Effective Use, Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Data and Metadata) as well as mentoring and career networking events. CHEPS students find the PAA meetings and events tremendously helpful for their professional development and educational inquiry.

Gokhan Kumpas presented a poster on his paper (coauthored with Dr. Sabia) providing the first empirical evidence on the effect of sport participation on crime among females. They find that increases in female sports participation induced by Title IX are associated with a reduction in property crime, violent crime as well as drug related arrests among women ages 25-to-39. These results suggest a \$5.7 billion crime-related cost savings of Title IX.

Tam Nguyen also presented two posters of her recent papers. One of them (coauthored with Dr. Sabia, Taylor Mackay and Dr. Dhaval Dave) explores the effect of “ban-the-box” (BTB) laws on crime in the U.S. between 2004 and 2014. The results suggest that BTB laws are associated with a 10 percent increase in property crimes involving Hispanic male arrestees. This finding is consistent with previous evidence of unintended consequences of BTB-induced unemployment due to statistical discrimination and, perhaps, moral hazard.

Tam’s other paper (coauthored with Dr. Sabia) examines the effect of minimum wages on receipt of and public expenditures on various public means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Using data for more than three decades, they find little evidence that minimum wage increases are effective at reducing participation in (and spending on) these programs. They conclude that alternative methods in order to improve the well-being of the working poor may be more effective.



EASTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

In February of this year, Toshio Ferrazares, Erich Kevari, Kevin Hsu, and Gokhan Kumpas of CHEPS attended the Eastern Economic Association Conference in New York City. During this conference they attended panels on a variety of economic research ranging from health, public policy, and more. During the conference, CHEPS doctoral student Gokhan Kumpas showcased the working paper, “Anti-Bullying Laws and Youth Suicide”. CHEPS student affiliate Toshio Ferrazares presented “Do Gun Buybacks Backfire?”, both his first conference presentation and the debut of this paper. On the EEA, Toshio Ferrazares stated, “After attending past conferences and seminars, the opportunity to present work that I have been a part of was a wonderful experience. I received many suggestions for tweaks to current research, possibility for future research, and potential extensions to our work. I thank CHEPS and the EEA for giving me this opportunity.”

Staying up to date on cutting edge research is vital for any economist. The CHEPS affiliates credit this trip with providing them a first-hand look at active research, while also allowing them to converse with well-known scholars in the field. Both for those who presented work and those who will present work, attending the EEA conference in New York City was an invaluable learning experience.



SUMMER 2019

The Summer of 2019 was, as always, a very busy time for CHEPS Research, with affiliates presenting working papers, many of which are described above, at following professional conferences:

- Society of Economics of the Household (Lisbon, Portugal), May 2019
- European Society of Population Economics (Bath, UK), June 2019
- Applied Microeconomics Workshop (Vanderbilt University), June 2019
- American Society of Health Economists (Washington, DC), June 2019
- Economics of Risky Behaviors Conference (Bologna, Italy), June 2019
- Western Economic Association International (San Francisco, California), June-July 2019
- International Health Economics Association (Basel, Switzerland), July 2019



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



RISING LEADERS FOR 2019-20

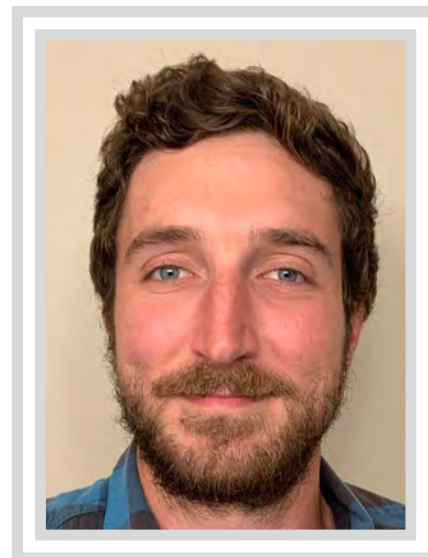
CAL BRYAN, CHEPS GRADUATE CO-CAPTAIN

“My experience with CHEPS has been impactful from the moment I first stepped into the Dean’s Suite in the College of Arts and Letters for the Stata Boot Camp back in August. Tam Nguyen led an excellent workshop on the use of Stata for econometric analysis, a vital tool for anyone interested in economic research. That Boot Camp set the tone for not only my role as a Research Assistant with CHEPS, but also allowed me to develop relationships with the people I would be working with closely over the next year(s) and provide me with an essential skill for the Master’s program here at San Diego State.

One of my first assignments with CHEPS was working with the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to determine the impact that the change in the minimum legal purchasing of tobacco, from 18 to 21 years old, had on smoking rates in young adults. This project gave me an opportunity to develop and hone a lot of integral research skills, alongside some of my fellow first year CHEPS student affiliates. Presenting these findings at weekly update meetings allowed me to work on my data visualization and presentation skills. On top of that, I have personally found the most invaluable part of my CHEPS experience to be hearing consistent feedback from Dr. Sabia on our projects. This has allowed me to observe the proper interpretation of econometric results, as well as insight to the general strategy that an applied microeconomic researcher takes with a project.

Being able to sit down with PhD economists, many of them in academia, on a weekly basis and chat with them about their ongoing research, as well as insight to the process of applying to PhD programs, has been quite a priceless opportunity as well. Seeing the different papers being presented at the seminar series has provided me a real-world application to supplement my coursework in the Master’s program. I was also given the opportunity to attend the Southern Economic Association meeting this past November in Washington D.C., and attended a lot of sessions on a variety of different microeconomic topics, including health, environmental, and education. When you consider both the opportunity to attend conferences as well as the weekly seminar, there is certainly plenty of exposure for CHEPS student affiliates to the latest trends in economic research!

I’m very excited to be stepping into a role as a co-captain for the Center this upcoming school year. In the past few months I was able to sit down and chat with a few of our incoming student affiliates, and they certainly have a lot to bring to the table. I hope to set a positive example as to the dedication and careful work that goes into applied research. Additionally, I know that Erich and I will be ready to provide them with any advice on their projects for the Center and with managing their time/workload with the Master’s program. Finally, one of my largest goals for this upcoming academic year, is to work closely with Dr. Sabia to get a paper published in a peer reviewed academic journal. After finishing my Master’s degree here, I am planning to apply to a few public policy PhD programs, and being a part of the publication process would be extremely beneficial. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience as a student affiliate with CHEPS, and am excited for what’s in store for this upcoming year!”



ERICH KEVARI, CHEPS GRADUATE CO-CAPTAIN

“During my first year at CHEPS, I received a true taste of what it means to be an economic researcher. Previously, I had a little bit of experience with research as a data analyst for the California Community College Researcher. I am grateful for the eye-opening experience that CHEPS has provided me with, helping to develop my skills in applied economic research. As for the specific impact it has left with me, the list is quite long; I’ve gained a lot of experience with difference-in-difference models, and acquired plenty of knowledge of how hard it is to complete a polished product that is acceptable for publication.

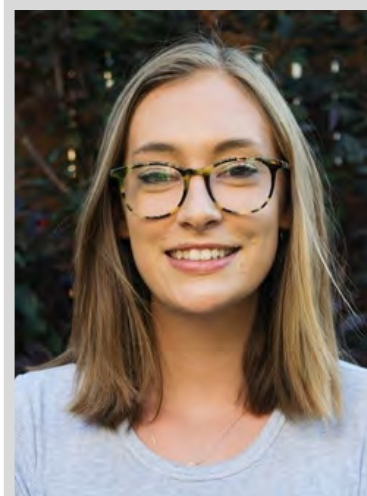
The one thing I will never forget about my first year here with CHEPS was being able to travel to New York City with 4 other CHEPS student affiliates to take part in the Eastern Economics Association Conference. This was my first time attending an economics conference and it was quite an experience. The experience solidified what I wanted to do in the coming year. My goal is to work on a project that will be ready for the next year of conferences so I could be one of the students presenting my work prior to moving on to a PhD program.

As for the year to come, I am excited to hold a leadership role with the Center and I am looking forward to the responsibilities encompassed within that. As a leader, I hope to play a significant role in the learning process for new folks coming to CHEPS and I am able to provide the support that is needed from a leader of the Center.”



ALICIA MARQUEZ, FROM UNDERGRADUATE TO GRADUATE AFFILIATE

“During my year as the first undergraduate in CHEPS, I have grown as both a student and a researcher. My CHEPS career began in the Summer of 2018 with the Stata boot camp. This week-long boot camp gave me a strong foundation for the research tasks to come. I immediately began working on research with the replication and extension of a paper examining the effects of Medical Marijuana Laws on teen marijuana consumption. Jumping into a research project such as this was a valuable, hands-on learning experience. I have also had the opportunity to attend weekly research seminars, exposing me to a variety of cutting-edge research. These seminars have allowed for networking opportunities with visiting scholars, as well as the opportunity to sit down and inquire with them about what a career in economics looks like. Being involved with CHEPS as an undergrad has exposed me to research and resources that have helped me to pursue a career in economics. I am excited to continue my involvement with CHEPS as I move on to the university’s MA program in the Fall.”



MEET OUR NEW MA AFFILIATES



COLIN ANDERSON

Colin Anderson graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BS in physical geography in 2014. He is currently a first year economics MA student at SDSU. His interests include public policy, health economics, development economics, and urban economics. After completing the MA program he hopes to work in public policy.



ISAAC BAUMANN

Isaac graduated from the University of Missouri in 2015 with a BS in finance and a minor in economics. He will be a first year master's student at SDSU beginning in fall 2019. His interests include public policy, health economics, and urban economics. After completing the MA program he hopes to work in the public sector before pursuing a PhD in economics or public policy.



JAMES CURRY

James completed his undergraduate studies at California State University, San Marcos where he earned a BA in economics. He is currently an MA candidate in economics at San Diego State University where he is interested in pursuing econometrics, game theory, and behavioral economics. Upon completion of the MA program he plans to pursue a PhD in the interest of teaching at the university level.



JOEY ERECE

Joey Erece graduated from SDSU in 2018 with a BA in economics. He is currently a first year master's student at SDSU. His research interests include behavioral economics, health economics, and business analytics. Upon completion of his degree he plans to gain work experience in the private sector, before returning to academia to pursue a PhD.



GAVIN GROMMES

Gavin Grommes graduated with a BA in economics from San Diego State University in 2018. He is now a candidate for an MA degree in economics at SDSU. His interests include public policy, labor economics, and health economics. After completing the master's program, he hopes to work in government.



CAMERON MILANI

Cameron Milani received his BA in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. He will be pursuing an MA in economics at San Diego State University. Upon completion of the master's program, he hopes to continue to a PhD program in economics and pursue a career in academia. His interests include labor economics, economic development and housing markets.



MELINDA MUELLER

Melinda Mueller graduated from The University of Alabama at Birmingham with a BS in economics. She is currently a graduate student at San Diego State University. Her research interests include public policy, labor economics, and law and economics. She plans to work in the private sector and possibly return back to academia to obtain her PhD.



SAMUEL SAFFORD

Samuel Safford received his BA in applied economics from California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA). He is currently a candidate for an MA in economics at SDSU. His interests include political economy, housing markets, economics of education, and public policy. Upon graduation he hopes to go on to earn his PhD in public policy.



VINCENT TA

Vincent Ta received his BA in economics from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) in 2016. He is currently a candidate for an MA degree in economics at San Diego State University (SDSU). His research interests include immigration economics, labor economics, and public policy. After completion of the MA program, Vincent hopes to pursue a PhD in public policy.

PUBLICATIONS, 2018-2019

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Anderson, D.M. and Sabia, J.J., 2018. "Child-Access-Prevention Laws, Youths' Gun Carrying, and School Shootings." *Journal of Law and Economics*, 61(3), pp.489-524.

Caetano, G., Kinsler, J. and Teng, H., 2019. "Towards causal estimates of children's time allocation on skill development." *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Choi, A., Dave D., and Sabia J. J., Forthcoming. "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: The Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws on Tobacco Use." *American Journal of Health Economics*.

Churchill, B.F. and Sabia, J.J., 2019. "The Effects of Minimum Wages on Low-Skilled Immigrants' Wages, Employment, and Poverty." *Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society*, 58(2), pp.275-314.

Lansing, A.E., Plante, W.Y., Beck, A.N. and Ellenberg, M., 2018. "Loss and grief among persistently delinquent youth: the contribution of adversity indicators and psychopathy-spectrum traits to broadband internalizing and externalizing psychopathology." *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 11(3), pp.375-389.

Lipton, B.J., Decker, S.L. and Sommers, B.D., 2019. "The Affordable Care Act appears to have narrowed racial and ethnic disparities in insurance coverage and access to care among young adults." *Medical Care Research and Review*, 76(1), pp.32-55.

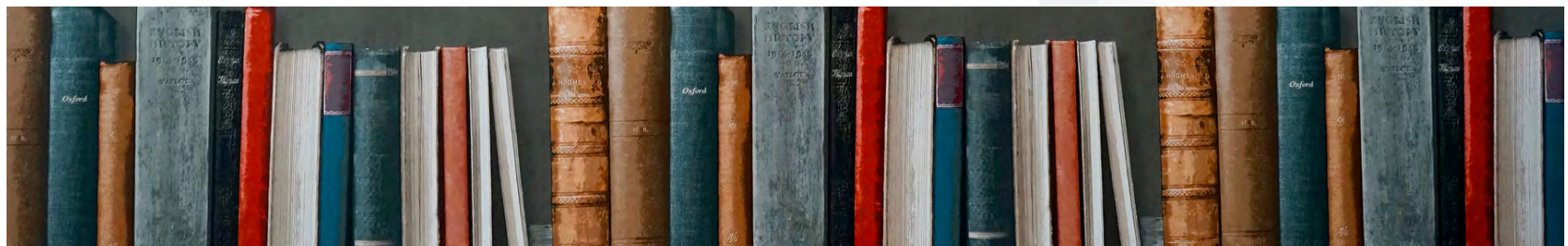
Lovely, M.E., Liang, Y. and Zhang, H., 2019. "Economic geography and inequality in China: Did improved market access widen spatial wage differences?" *China Economic Review* 54, pp.306-323.

McGeary, K.A., Dave D., Lipton B.J., and Roeper T., Forthcoming. "The effects of public smoking bans on child health and venue of smoking." *American Journal of Health Economics*.

Rees, D.I., Sabia J.J., Argys L., Dave D., and Latshaw J., Forthcoming. "With a Little Help from My Friends: The Effects of Naloxone Access Laws and Good Samaritan Laws on Opioid-Related Mortality," *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Sabia, J.J., Pitts, M.M. and Argys, L.M., 2019. "Are minimum wages a silent killer? New evidence on drunk driving fatalities." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101(1), pp.192-199.

Sabia, J.J. and Nguyen, T.T., 2018. "The effect of medical marijuana laws on labor market outcomes." *Journal of Law and Economics*, 61(3), pp.361-396.



PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE REVISIONS REQUESTED

Abman, R. and Lundberg, C. "Does Free Trade Increase Deforestation? The Effects of Regional Trade Agreements," Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*.

Anderson, D.M., Sabia, J.J., and Tekin, E. "Child Access Prevention Laws and Juvenile Firearm-Related Homicides." Review and Resubmit, *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Beck, A.N., Gibbons, J., Finch B.K., and Amaro, H. "Gentrification's Association with Race-Ethnic Segregation, Income Segregation, and Income Inequality in the United States: 1980-2010." Revise and Resubmit, *Urban Studies*.

Boudreaux, M.H. and Lipton, B.J. "Medicaid benefit generosity and employment outcomes: Evidence from Medicaid adult vision benefits." Revised and Resubmit (first round), *Journal of Human Resources*.

Finch, B.K., Thomas K., and Beck, A.N. "The Great Recession and Adverse Birth Outcomes." Revise and Resubmit, *Social Science and Medicine, Population Health*.





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